

WE CLAIM:

1. A surgical instrument, comprising:  
a tubular member having a distal end and a proximal end;  
a handle attached to the proximal end of the tubular member;  
an end effector assembly having an end effector and an attachment portion for releasably attaching to the distal end of the tubular member, the attachment portion having a protrusion for resisting detachment of the attachment portion and the tubular member; and  
an actuator connected to the handle and the end effector assembly for actuating the end effector.
2. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the tubular member has a hollow, coil-less structure.
3. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the tubular member has a plurality of lumens.
4. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the attachment portion has an inner wall and an outer wall having the protrusion.
5. The surgical instrument of claim 4, wherein the end effector assembly is attached to the distal end of the tubular member such that the attachment portion is inserted into the tubular member and the tubular member covers the outer wall of the attachment portion.
6. The surgical instrument of claim 5, wherein the protrusion of the outer wall is a threaded surface.

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000



